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REMARKS

The Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the rejections.

Claims 1-21 are pending.

The Applicants submitted the certified priority document of JP 2000-351511 on April 29, 2005.

Claims 1-6 and 8-21 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Saito et al., U.S. Patent 5,867,579 (Saito). Claim 7 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Saito in view of Le Roy et al., U.S. Patent 4,723,285, (Le Roy).

A key feature of the present invention is to encrypt a portion of a data structure unit of, for example, JPEG data or MPEG data, which brings "contaminated" images (such as those shown in Fig. 6 or Fig. 11).

On the other hand, Saito shows a seemingly similar system structure for transferring digital data and protecting digital data copyrights. However, Saito neither shows nor suggests encrypting a portion of a data structure unit.

Le Roy relates to broadcasting high quality sound programs and the reception thereof. More particularly, Le Roy shows a technique for completing a multiplex digital transmission with a frequency multiplex technique. However,

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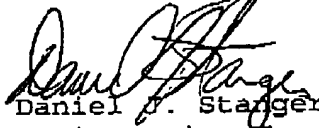
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Le Roy neither shows nor suggests to contaminate transmitted sound data, as disclosed and claimed.

Therefore, neither Saito nor Le Roy (nor any combination thereof that might be motivated by their teachings) shows or suggests the presently claimed invention.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, the Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the rejections and allowance of the claims.

Respectfully submitted,



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